**Reinforcing Effort**

\*”Effort is the most important factor in achievement.”

Generalizations:

* Not all students realize the importance of effort.
* Students can learn that effort pays off.

Recommendations:

* Explicitly teach students about the importance of effort.
* Students need to track their effort and achievement.

Misconceptions:

* Connect academic success with factors outside of his/her control
  + “I’m just not good at math. My mom wasn’t good at math either.”
* People of a certain background excel in certain academic areas.

**Spreadsheet Software**

Find or create a rubric – What does effort look like?

1. See page 157 for Microsoft excel sample (Rubistar sample: 1924087)
2. Rubric Machine: [www.landmark-project.com/rubric\_builder/index.php](http://www.landmark-project.com/rubric_builder/index.php)
3. Rubistar: <http://rubistar.4teachers.org>

* Student log on class network

Student Spreadsheet: (sample on wiki)

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Category | Week 1 | Week 2 | Week 3 | Week 4 |
| Class Notes |  |  |  |  |
| Attention |  |  |  |  |
| Participation |  |  |  |  |
| Homework |  |  |  |  |
| Studying |  |  |  |  |
| Total Effort |  |  |  |  |
| Grade |  |  |  |  |

\*Instructions for setting up an effort/achievement spreadsheet are on page 158.

Students will:

1. Score the preparation portions using the rubric: class notes, attention, participation, homework and studying
2. Take the test
3. Enter test score in the “Grade” box
4. Each student highlights Total Effort and Grade
5. Go to Insert>Chart to select the Chart
6. The chart will show the effort/grade comparison

**Data Collection Tools**

To show effort is truly connected to effort use group data.

* Others have faced similar difficulties
* Others have overcome obstacles and achieved goals with strong effort and a good attitude

Use the School Website:

* Student success stories
* Particularly important for high school – students grow more and more discouraged by their perceived failures

Online Surveys:

* Insight into character of your students
* Provide data to encourage students
* Show the connection between effort and achievement

Survey Monkey: [www.surveymonkey.com](http://www.surveymonkey.com)

\*Create an anonymous survey using a rubric for guidance.

--Share the data to show how achievement and effort are strongly correlated.